

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1. In Fig. 1, previously omitted element 100 has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Remarks

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. By the present amendment, claims 1-6 have been cancelled. New claims 7-14 have been added. It is believed that no new subject matter has been introduced by the additional claims.

Preliminary Matters

The Examiner asserts that the reference to German Patent No. DE 8513784U in the specification is an insufficient disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(b). An information disclosure statement has been provided herewith to adequately conform to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(b) such that the Examiner will consider the reference.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) for failing to identify the "Device" recited in the claims. The specification has been amended to refer to the "device" as "device 100", and Fig. 1 has been amended to reflect this correction. Therefore, it is believed that the objection has been overcome.

Abstract

The Examiner objected to the disclosure in failing to provide an abstract in accordance with MPEP §608.01(b). An abstract has been provided to overcome this objection.

Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification for failing to include proper subject headings. The specification has been amended to include such headings. Therefore, the objection has been overcome.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-6 have been cancelled and therefore the rejection has been overcome. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 7-14 satisfy, *inter alia*, 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,865,505 to Okada (hereafter "Okada"). Claims 1-6 have been cancelled and thus the rejection to Okada is moot.

New Claims

New claim 7 recites a first connecting unit comprising a sleeve connected to a carrier part, and a second connecting unit comprising a guide part connected to the carrier part and a holding part releasably engageable with the guide part. It is respectfully submitted that new claim 7 patentably defines over Okada, and is therefore allowable.

Okada appears to teach a clip member 3 and a leaf spring member 2 used to mount a part 1 onto a panel 4 (Fig. 1). The part 1 is mounted onto the panel 4 by fitting in the mounting oblong hole 5 of the panel 4 the clip member 3 having a leaf spring member 2 inserted therein and then inserting a boss portion 1a of the part 1 into the leaf spring member 2 accommodated in the clip member 3 (Col. 4, lines 38-43 and Figs. 1 and 3A). Thus, Okada does not teach a first and second connecting unit, wherein the first connecting unit and the second connecting unit each comprise

an element connected to a carrier part. Since Okada does not teach or suggest the subject matter of new claim 7, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 7 is allowable.

New claims 8-13 depend from claim 7 and are allowable for at least the same reasons claim 7 is allowable, and for the specific limitations recited therein.


New claim 14 recites that the holding part and guide part cooperate to adapt to positional and dimensional errors in the second connecting unit.

Okada appears to teach that there is an oblong hole 5 and that leaf spring member 2 and clip member 3 form an integral unit (Col. 3, lines 54-55), and that there is no movement of the leaf spring member 2 relative to the clip member 3 explicitly disclosed. However, if there are errors in the position at which the mounting hole 5 is formed and in the position from which the boss portion 1a projects, when the boss portion 1a is inserted into the leaf spring member 2, the errors can be effectively dispelled (absorbed) by the movement of the clip member 3 within the mounting hole 5 (Col. 4, lines 14-22 and Col. 4, lines 58-62). That is, Okada does not teach that adaption is caused by the relative movement between a holding part with respect to a guide part, as recited in claim 14. Therefore, since Okada does not teach or suggest the subject matter of new claim 14, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 14 patentably defines over Okada, and is therefore allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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